Dear Mr. Davenport

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

May 14 1883

By strict rule — the rule we of late all agree to follow, we must, I think follow Hooker, Baker &c —

Smith doubtless meant the Vittaria should be called V. lineata, and if he had introduced the name, as he did in these cases, all would have been right But the name "Smith" is only the first word of the reference "Smith in Act. Taur. &c" — how are first there no specific name. The earliest use of the name we know is "V. lineata Sweetz, Syn. Fil." We are introduce potential or infantial

names, we know not where to stop. So the only way is to quote books as they are.

Smith only says his Vittaria is produced Stria lineata, probably the only species. He should have written Vittaria lineata Sweetz as first to do so.

If you could keep down infantial names to cases like this, we might admit them. But it opens a door which one cannot shut.

Yours truly

A Gray